GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Trade Among BRICS Nations
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BRICS nations have signed pacts to enhance trade in their own local currencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any joint working group has been set up to thrash out all outstanding trade issues and if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any feedback from importers/ exporters on such pacts; and

(e) if so, details thereof along with the action taken by the Government on the basis of the feedback received?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): The five development banks of BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism signed an umbrella non-binding "Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currencies" during the 4th BRICS Summit held in March, 2012 in New Delhi. For India, the Interbank Cooperation Mechanism was signed by the Export Import Bank of India which is the nominated Member. Moreover, there are references to the use of national currencies in trade in the declaration of the 7th BRICS Summit held on 8-9 July, 2015 in Ufa, Russia.

(c) to (e) The BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) is the forum which deals with trade issues between BRICS countries. The Contact Group was established at the 1st Economic and Trade Ministers' Meeting of BRICS held on April 13, 2011, in Sanya, China. The 11th meeting of the BRICS CGETI was held in New Delhi on 12th April, 2016 with the discussions centred around a number of areas of mutual interest for BRICS countries such as Macro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), non-tariff measures (NTMs), Electronic Commerce, Intellectual Property, Services etc.

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